

Top of the Hill

May 2005

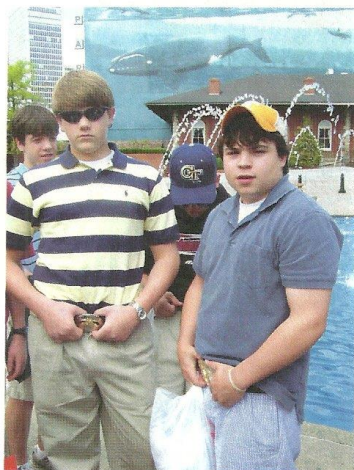
Volume 10

Issue 5

Atlanta: Perfect Until the Storm

by Daniel Green

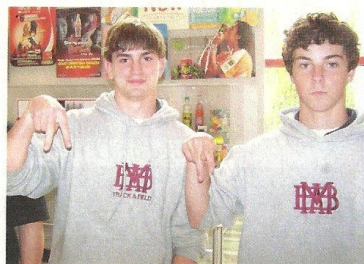
It all started at 6:45 on a bleak and chilly Thursday morning in front of Massey. The eighth grade class



Luke and Clark show off their belts

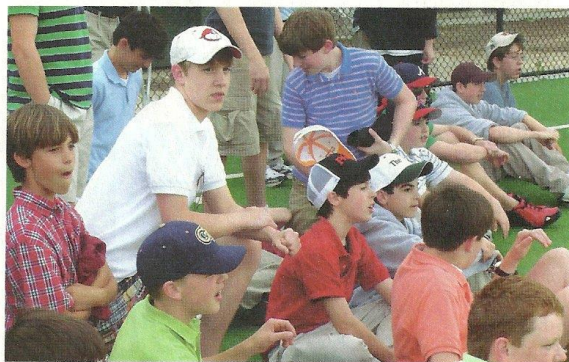
waited for Bus #2 to finally pull into the Massey parking lot. We loaded up our luggage under the buses and boarded. After Nicholas Caprioli's victorious struggle with the defective VCR player, the first video, which was *Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* on Bus #1, chaperoned by Mr. Brown and Mrs. Pettus, was played. After two hours of bus riding, we

stopped at a rest area and were soon off again. Once *Lord of the Rings* was over, we began *Ocean's Eleven*. We soon pulled into the crowded entrance to Atlanta and slowly inched forward. We drove to the world-famous The Varsity restaurant, ate some great lunch, and left with stylish paper hats. After lunch, we headed to the Coca-Cola museum. Strangely, the self-guided tour worked its way down from level three to level one. Level three had some interesting facts about Coca-Cola, including its bottling process, its history of marketing in the U.S. and around the world, and some random facts such as the most popular flavored Coca-



Patrick Crum and Leland Howe

and different products from around the U.S. The next room was the Coca-Cola from Around the World. It was full of some of the strangest named and tasting pops, sorry, **coke**s, I have ever seen or tasted. Everyone's favorite was probably the Beverly but definitely not because of the taste. It was by far the worst drink I have ever tasted, and I think everyone



The Eighth Grade Cheer Squad

Cola, which is Cherry Coke. Next

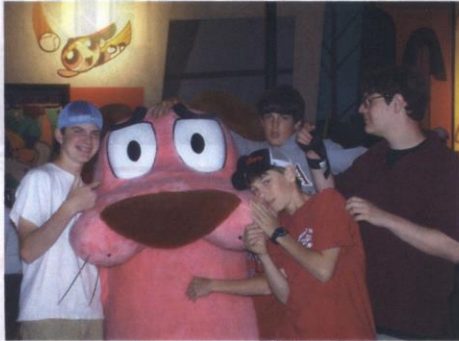
was the best level of them all, level two -- the taste-testing floor. The first room was full of machines for regular kinds of Coca-Cola products

agreed. This horrid taste did not stop us, though, from filling up glass after glass of the stuff and having chugging Continued on Pg. 3

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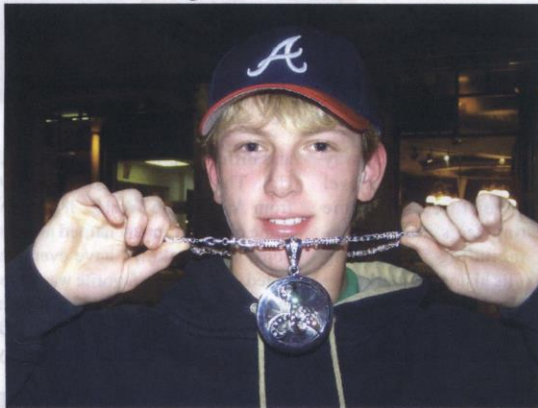
Atlanta Trip



Courage and Friends



Mr. Woolsey conducts the "Traffic Symphony" in C minor.

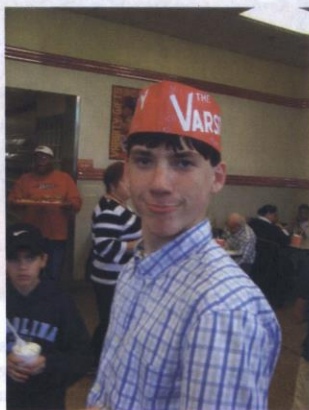


Hooper shows his bling



Fadi enjoyed his ice cream.

Don at the Varsity



Daniel got the "Best Paintball Wound" Award.

Atlanta Trip

Continued from Pg. 1
contests that made our heads hurt after just one glass. These drinks came from every country you could think of, ranging from Green Apple from China to the Beverly from Italy. The last floor was the Coca-Cola gift shop.

After most people had purchased some novelty item, we entered the world of Underground Atlanta. I am happy to say that no one was mugged or pick-pocketed. I spent the first half of our time wandering through shops with absolutely nothing to buy. The last half was spent in the Magic Masters shop. I was able to see some new magic tricks and purchase a new card trick book. We left the Underground with many of us sporting bling ranging from spinning watch tops to large, "tinted" glasses. We boarded the buses and navigated our way to Georgia Tech well, sort of. Bus #2 pulled into the semi-hidden parking lot as Bus #1 went on ahead. We circled the couple of blocks around the parking lot and probably went up the street two or three times, but we finally made it to our destination. The lacrosse players hurriedly got their gear and suited up. We had to march to the fields while the rest of the grade ate hamburgers and dined in one of the GT parking lots. After a lap, stretches, and line drills on the bouncy turf

of the field, the game finally began. We fell to an early deficit but rallied



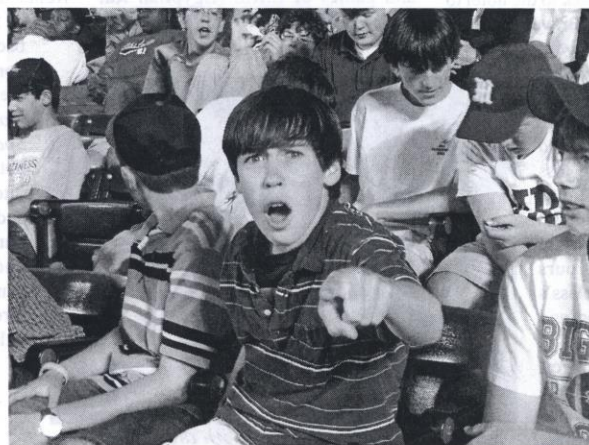
Scott Ramsey

back, feeding off the energy of the Big Red crowd next to us. With cheers like, "Take his whistle!" Hooper's claim that one of the players had "brass knuckles," and the entire crowd doing pushups for however many goals we had, the Big Red was able to crush the hopes of

the Jr. Rooster squad as we put home goal after goal after goal. The final score was 9-7 Big Red. A perfect way to celebrate the win was to go to the ESPN Zone. We were supplied with a game card and free cokes, as many as we wanted, the entire night. Some of our classmates were lucky enough to be given cards with infinite points until 12:00 that night. The Zone had tons of games, ranging from horse racing to mini-bowling to water rafting. After hours of fun, we exhaustedly boarded the buses and headed to our hotel. Once we got there, we decided to eat because the lacrosse players had not had dinner yet. After hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and cokes, we headed back up to our rooms and got to sleep around twelve.

The next morning we woke up, went down to the parking lot, and feasted on donuts and milk. We then piled into the buses and drove to the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial and Museum. We watched a video on MLK and then toured the museum another twenty or so minutes. I thought this was very interesting and showed the segregation and violation of rights of the African-Americans. After the museum, we visited Dr. King's gravesite, which was a nice-

looking pool with a little waterfall. We also saw the "eternal flame," which was by the pool. We then left the gravesite, boarded the buses, and left for paintball. We arrived at Paintball Atlanta, changed, and waited to get our equipment. After signing a



Will instructs the grade on proper etiquette.

Continued on Pg. 4

Atlanta Trip

Continued from Pg. 3

liability waiver, we received the guns, paintballs, and masks and were ready to go. We heard a speech about the rules of paintball. We were then split into two teams and headed to one of the fields. All of the games were Capture the Flag and were played on four different fields. Mr. Brown was, unfortunately, the only teacher that played and was shot, I think, every game.

Everyone sported some kind of battle wound or wounds in many cases. I probably claimed the title of worst "wound" with the most



Coach Brown

massive and nasty looking bruise and blood blisters I have ever had. I had a ring of broken skin and small blood blisters from where the ball struck me.

After four fun hours of paintball, we went back to the hotel to freshen up before the Braves game. In about an hour, we went back downstairs, boarded the buses, and drove to Turner Field. The game was a ton of fun but ended with a disappointing loss to the unbearable St. Louis Cardinals. Albert Pujols' homerun was knocked into the section next to ours and in some of the class's case, into their section, and we were able to get on TV. Turner Field has the largest High-Definition TV in the world as their jumbotron. I do not know how anything

could be so large and yet have such a clear and distinct picture. After spending lots of money on extremely pricey concessions and watching the game, we headed back to the hotel.

The next morning was the most depressing part of the entire trip, and the only one I might add. We woke up to the accursed storms that would last to midday. This day, of course, was planned for Six Flags over Georgia. It was the part of the trip that I was looking forward to the most, and we had to spend it rained inside our hotel rooms. After a few hours of being sequestered in our rooms and games and games of E.R.S (Egyptian Rat Screw) and poker, Mr. Thurmond made

the decision to head home because it was still storming and Six Flags

had not opened. So we sadly packed our luggage and took the ridiculously slow elevator downstairs. We loaded up our luggage and got on the bus and left for Nashville. We had finished Ocean's Eleven while driving to various places, so we decided to watch Wayne's World. About an hour into the trip home, we stopped at a chain of fast-food restaurants to eat lunch. After



Paintball Warrior Anderson

McDonald's and buying pointless items and candy at the Dollar General for on the way home, we got back on the buses and departed non-stop for Nashville. Once we had finished Wayne's World, we decided to watch Spaceballs although we could not finish it. The buses pulled into the Massey parking lot, and we got off and unloaded our luggage. I got into my dad's car and drove away completely exhausted from a three-day vacation of fun in Atlanta.



The Varsity: Fast Food with an Attitude!

The Return of the Sam Page

Star Wars: Superb Battles and No Ewoks

by Sam Page

As you all probably know, May 19th marked the opening of the final installment in the Star Wars (in name only) prequel trilogy. After *The*



Phantom Menace and *Attack of the Clones*, expectations were not high. This movie was a huge improvement though, for many reasons, the first being that it is the last installment that depicts the epic fall of all Jedi; if it weren't better than the last two, something would be seriously wrong. Another reason

for the improvement is that it used the special effects that have seemingly sucked the life out of Star Wars and made excellent battle scenes that were much more exciting than those in any previous installment, prequel or original. The characters were still nowhere near as likeable as the originals although Chewbacca

appears. This movie also required more knowledge of Star Wars than any

previous one, as I'm sure most people were not familiar with General Grievous (the cyborg with the chest cold). I'd say this movie, because of its superb battle scenes and lack of ewoks, is probably even better than Episode VI. In fact, I'd put them in this order (best to worst): 4, 5, 3, 6, 2, 1. My only regret about watching this movie is that Boba Fett was not in it.



Darth Sidious and Anakin Skywalker (A.K.A. Lord Vader)



Hayden Christensen

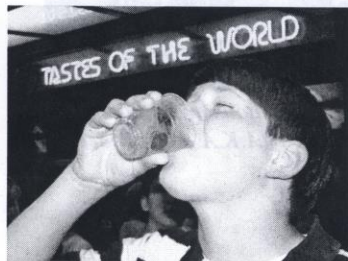
Final Farewells

8th Grade Last Will and Testament

I, Logan Lechleiter, leave Patrick to stay with Mrs. Qian forever.

I, Leland Howe, leave to Robinson Hunt and Shawn McKinnis the pole-vaulting squad leaders for Middle School Track.

I, Gray Taylor, leave to next year's rifle



Clark Benton

team the ability to shoot well.

I, Kile Garrett, leave to Harry West all my DL time.

I, Jeff Francis, leave to Hershel the knowledge of good parts of MBA, where candy and good times may be found.

I, Fadi Pulous, leave to Mr. Anderson my humor and wit.

I, Patrick Hallahan, leave to Jeff Nutkis my ability to be the coolest person in the world of the past, present, and near future.



Gray Taylor and Clayton Cothran

I, Jonas Hill, leave to William Tanner my ability to do extremely long secret hand shakes to random people at will.

I, Don Orr, leave to Cole Doster my position on the defense team and to Sean McKinnis my many hours of study hall with Mrs. Steele.

I, Perry Webb, leave to Tyler Paslick my *Julius Caesar* book that has sidenotes and underlinings.

I, Wade Longmire, leave to Jordan Herring, the ability to create friends out of ordinary stationery.

I, Caldwell Buntin, leave to Adrian my monkey cartoons and to Overton Thompson the gnome that lives in my locker.

I, Joseph Sloan, leave to Andrew Fletcher all the fun times in 6th period study hall.

I, Luke Cole, leave to Mitchell Lukins my half of the Mitchell Lukins secret powers.

I, Joseph Hach, leave to Mitchell Lukens MY half of the Mitchell Lukins secret powers.

I, Clark Benton, leave to Mitchell Lukins my devilish good looks and spiderman abilities.

I, Patrick Sohr, leave to Alvin Kim the title of "Slacker" in Mrs. Qian's class and Wade Nelson to Mr. Spiegl.

I, Hicks Woolwine, leave to Alex Hornbuckle my amazing bass skills and



John Floyd

to Wiley Hunt my amazing riflery skills and the title of "Coolest Guy Around."

I, Hooper Paty, leave the baseball team many wild rides on the bus to 42nd street. I, Scott Ramsey, leave to Rob Smith control of the cross

country team and speech skills.

I, Houston Oldham, leave to Bongo, Papa Georgio, and Fletch the best middle school soccer team in the world.

Jonas Hill



I, Nicholas Caprioli, leave to Zach Sternberg the Publications Room Chair, the *Buckeye*, and the dyslexic Publications computer. In addition, I

leave Ben Mecklenborg to Mr. Spiegl.

I, Robert McNeilly, leave to Nate Smith my amazing 8th grade churchball skills.

I, Austin Archer, in conjunction with Bradford Norton and Jimmy Balser, leave to Rob Smith and two others of his choice the rights and privileges of the "Window Light" Study Hall spot.

I, David Mills, leave to the rising 8th grade football team good luck and fortune.

I, Clayton Cothran, leave to Shep Patterson the ability to pick on one seventh grader and torture him in any way he deems fit.

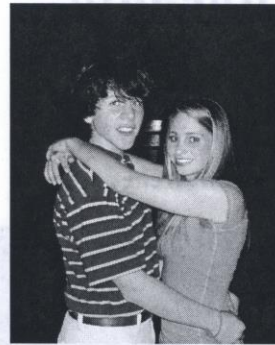
I, John Floyd, leave to Mr. McMurray the inability to get mad.

7th Grade Mixer



*Corbin Williams, Sam Berklacich,
and Mikey Reid*

*Sam
Berklacich
and
Emily
Weikert*



Sam Moxley and Bridget Bailey

Jake Hymes and Chealsey Stessel



The Final Fling

by Campbell Haynes

The last seventh grade MBA-HH mixer took place in April. The food was okay, but the good stuff ran out pretty quickly. Lots of people astounded others with their dancing skills. Daniel Smith clearly liked to dance and was really showing off some unique moves! Daniel White exhibited his one-two step, while others stood near the side of the gym and did nothing. People didn't start dancing until the lights were turned off, about twenty minutes into the dance. I barely even got in because there was a fee at the door. After much pleading by myself, some girl gave me money. The DJ played a lot of songs that required line dancing, which I thought was pretty weird. His library of music contained very few good songs. Aside from the DJ and the door fee, the dance was pretty good. At first, people were hesitant to dance, but after a while they participated. Charles Herron crowd surfed for a while, which was pretty cool.



Jeff Nutkis and Jaya Williams

Et tu, Austin?

Alternate Endings

...to Julius Caesar
by Austin Archer



Wannabe Casear Austin Archer

1. Julius Caesar wakes up on March 15 and decides he doesn't want to go to work. So he calls in sick and goes to the local Kwik-e-Mart and buys a case of beer and a jumbo bag of Cheetos. He then returns to his home and watches the ball game on ABC.

2. After hearing his wife's plea to keep him at home, he asks her to take a lie detector test. She is shown to be telling the truth, but Caesar still has doubts.

Wannabe Casca Knight Hammock



He goes to see a palm reader who tells him that nothing will happen if he proceeds to the Capitol that morning. (After Caesar leaves, Cassius comes out from behind the curtains and gives the psychic 75 drachmas.) However, Caesar still has doubts about whether he should journey forth to the Capitol today. He goes back to

his home and asks the augurers to make a sacrifice and report their findings to him. After making the sacrifice and plucking the entrails of a bull, they find

all organs present and advise Caesar to go to the Capitol. Thus, Caesar prepares to leave his home by taking a shower. However, while shaving he cuts his face and will not go out because he is so embarrassed.

3. The Roman people hate Antony's funeral speech and club him to death at the funeral. They cut out his heart and say, "Now your heart lies in the coffin there with Caesar!"

4. An angry student at Pompey Bell Academy named Spartacus attacks his English teacher because he failed to memorize a funeral speech. The attack turns into a riot ending in the death of thousands of Romans. When the dust clears, Spartacus stands under Pompey's statue with a bloody knife in his hand and one foot propped on the

chest of Caesar's corpse. He then says, "Oops, I guess I got swept up in the moment."

5. Caesar is killed in a 53-car pile-up while driving to the Capitol on March 15.

Anachronistic Conspirators:
Harrison, Knight, David, and Kenji



...to English 8

Shortly after arriving at new mama's home, Ellen Foster is thrown out onto the streets. She decides the best course of action is to become involved in the Montgomery Bell Mafia (MBM). This secretive and incredibly wealthy crime organization began in the late 1890s when the Wallace school was built. It gained its funds by sucking every last penny from the unsuspecting students enrolling in the school. The mafia continued to grow in size and strength as tuition was steadily raised to meet new budget demands, not for the school but for the mafia. Influence in the community grew even greater when the students gained a reputation for being Gentlemen, Linebackers, and Procrastinators. (How the last one

From Tom to Brutus

helped no one knows.) After being accepted to the MBM, Ellen began with small jobs such as delivering packages but soon worked her way up and became an assassin. Her first mission was at a school in New Hampshire called Devon. The MBM believes that it is a training ground for a rival Mafia that controls most of Asia, yeah that's right, Asia. She is instructed to kill a young man named Phineas, code name "About to Die in a Strange Surgical Accident" and is instructed to do so without drawing any attention to herself or making the death seem like

m u r d e r . Therefore, Ellen, or Tickle-Me-Elmo as she is called in the Mafia, is forced to hide in the school and gather information for over two years. She carefully watches "About to Die in a Strange Surgical Accident" during this time and notices

everything he does. She notices the formation of the Super Suicide Society of the Summer Session and decides this ritual is the perfect opportunity to make a murder look like an accident. She attaches a small machine used to generate small tremors on the top branch of a tree that seemed special to the SSS. She waits until dusk when shadows began to move across the front lawn of the school. The club members make their way to the tree and two begin to climb up and out onto the branch. Tickle-Me-Elmo sees her opportunity and activates the branch, jarring the branch and causing

one figure to fall off. However, when he hits the ground, he does not die; her job is not done yet. She begins to grow reckless and even covers a grenade in snow and throws it at "About to Die in a Strange Surgical Accident," but the grenade is a dud. Ellen finally gets her chance when "About to Die in a Strange Surgical Accident" breaks his leg and is forced to undergo surgery to reset the bone. Tickle-Me-Elmo, dressed as a nurse, sneaks into the operating room as an assistant. When the doctor turns his back, she merely

she has waiting for her on the beach. She begins to unscrew a small piece when she feels a tingling sensation and is swept away to ancient Rome. She finds a calendar and realizes it is March 13, 44 BC. She knows this is two days before the infamous murder of Julius Caesar and decides to save his life by telling him of the conspirators and their plot. Right after telling Caesar the name of the last conspirator, she is taken back to the strange machine.

Back in Rome, Caesar ponders this strange message and decides the girl must be right for he had seen strange things hanging from a strand of leather tied around her waist by a silver knot containing strange tools she called guns. He plans to kill all those conspiring against him and then take his own life. He begins late the night of March 14 by killing Cassius while he sleeps. However, Cassius's slave, knowing of his master's plans and of those involved, runs to the other conspirators' homes to warn them of Caesar. The conspirators flee to the Capitol to do battle against Caesar. However, Caesar is too strong for them and easily kills them, saving Brutus for last. He runs toward Brutus with his

dagger in his hand and blood on his robe. The battle rages on for almost twenty minutes before Brutus, tired because he is not in good physical shape, gives way to Caesar's onslaught. As he delivers the final blow, Caesar yells, "*Et tu Brute!*" Then, he kneels and holds his dagger to his chest. As he thrusts the blade into his flesh and falls to the ground, he says, "Then fall Caesar."

A few minutes later, two young boys named Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, walk by and gaze upon the fallen Romans. They then sigh but decide to "keep mum."

THE ALTERNATE END



Austin Archer: "As I Lay Dying"

cuts a small incision in the vein closest to the bone to allow bone marrow to enter the blood stream. She then turns and exits the campus, never to return.

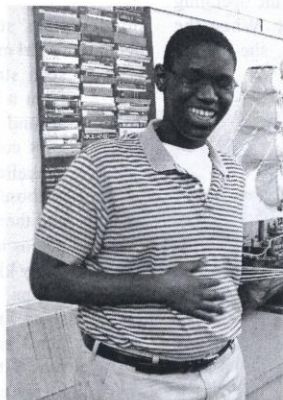
Tickle-Me-Elmo's next mission is to retrieve a strange primitive machine from a small island in the Atlantic Ocean. She arrives at the island and finds it inhabited by young British children. She is forced to exterminate them all before proceeding into the heart of the island that contains the machine. She finds the machine but must take it apart to transport it to the helicopters

Reviews

Flemings

by Daniel White

If you haven't been to Flemings, then you have missed out. Flemings has an upscale ambiance, and the decor is just lovely. The dimmed lights and the mahogany paneled walls compliment the ambiance so well. I started my delicious meal with the appetizer, which was the complimentary bread with the spreads. I then had a healthy wedge salad, which is a wedge of lettuce, tomato, and spicy red onions with a blue cheese dressing. Next, I had the main course: an eight-ounce petite sirloin with sauteed spinach, creamed spinach, lyonnaise potatoes, and broccoli hollandaise. Unfortunately, I didn't have dessert. I would rate this restaurant four stars (****) because of its decor, ambiance, and food. This is my last food article, so if you want me to review a restaurant over the summer, please see me.



Daniel remembers that great meal at Flemings

The Battle of the Bands

by Bradford Norton

Since I was the only junior-schooler that I know of that went to the Battle of the Bands, I'll tell you about it. The opening band was a rap group. They weren't bad. The first band in the contest was bad because of their vocals, which were just horrible. The second band was the only MBA band playing. It was Maybe Tomorrow, consisting of: Tyler Deutsch, Chris Pickens, Wade Sims, Nicholas Jacques, and Ben Norton. I thought they were awesome, but they were second because

they had a bad mike and unequal volume levels between the bass and guitar. Their first song was Rancid's "Ruby Soho," and their other songs were original ones. I dodged out for the next three bands because the first of those three started playing jazz. So, I visited the band across the hall, SNMNMNM, who had a distorted tuba. They were good but weren't in the contest. An MLK band played either sixth or seventh, and I stayed to see them. Then, I dodged out again and came back to hear Sweatband, who did cover songs, one of which was a Beatles' song. Then, I dodged out and came back for the last band, Guillotine. They had the best performance, but they did not win. They shortly announced the winner after some decision-making by the judges (which included Dolly Parton and Peter Frampton). The winner was Sweatband. I was greatly discouraged that Maybe Tomorrow or Guillotine didn't win, so when Sweatband started playing another song, I went to see the band across the hall again. I know I skipped a few. But I felt that I saw the best bands and the only bands worth mentioning.



Music

Top 40 Radio: The Anti- Christ?

by Hicks Woolwine

There are many radio stations, all playing different types of music: Rock, Country, R&B, Soul, Funk, and Jazz (rap not being music), but there are certain stations whose sole purpose is to destroy music for everyone. These stations are the Top 40 stations, the Anti-Christ of music. As a last stand for rock-lovers everywhere and for my last article, I take on the Top 40 garbage.

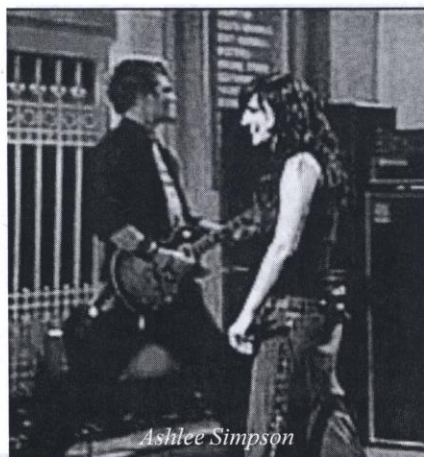
Top 40 is bad for many reasons. First, it plays many of the same sounding, over-produced "singers," such as Backstreet Boys, *NSYNC, Christina Aguilera, and Ashlee Simpson (who we all know

cannot sing after SNL), etc. These people are only produced because of dancing ability and good looks. Their voices are run through a type of synthesizer (electronic music creating program) or a multi-track editing program called ProTools to have their voice match every note. Most of the original recordings also never include a real band. Instead, a synthesizer is used to create the backing "music."

The second reason why Top 40 is awful is because when a rock group, Green Day for example, get a huge single, such as "Boulevard of Broken Dreams," it launches the group to a whole new audience and causes them to do anything for money; groups often move away from their old ideas and values of rock, thus forcing them into selling out. Sure, the band gets more money, more fame, more airplay, more shows, but their past audiences become HORRIBLY DISAPPOINTED. Green Day has sunk to the point of being heard by my mom at a grocery store!



Christina Aguilera



Ashlee Simpson

Finally, Top 40 radio, along with MTV, completely overplays everything. The last time I listened to Top 40, I was surprised to hear all the same songs I heard two years ago. They need to either become a variety station with a mix of all music types, or they need to play more tracks from more obscure artists. Because of all these reasons, I have stopped listening to Top 40 radio entirely. I embrace the new, classic, and ever Christian rock stations, such as 102.9, 105.9, 88.7, and 89.1, while shunning the Top 40 stations, such as 102.5 and 107.5. I have also invested in Satellite radio, giving me the perfect mix of music that I like. The two satellite radio systems are Sirius and XM. Sirius plays more new and old rock, while XM has a smaller number of rock stations, playing more obscure artists. Slowly, however, rock is returning to the Top 40 radio, so there could be an equal mix of music: Rock, evil-pop, and non-music such as rap, all living together in perfect harmony, like ebony and ivory. I hope that everyone will share my view of music.

Grandparents Day

*John Rocco with his grandmother
Cordelia Rocco*



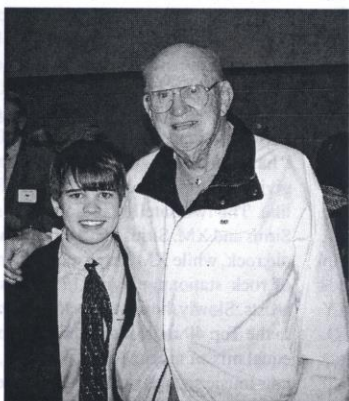
Luke Cole and Mrs. Virginia Lewis



*Ryan Veneble and his grandparents
Anna and Abe Veneble*



*Will Overton with Hersh and Betty
Jean Collins*



John Donlon and William Donlon



*Daniel Green with Robert and Betty Green as
well as Betty and Mike Nacarato*

Mother-Son Breakfast



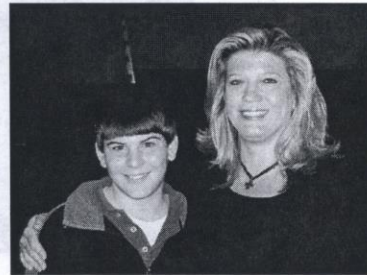
Nicholas and Mrs. Chris Caprioli

Mrs. Alice Carr and Kevin Carr



Mrs. Lisa Springman and Austin Archer

Logan and Mrs. Kit Lechleiter



Mr. Peter Thurmond and Mrs. Martha Thurmond (Mr. T's mom)



Mrs. Trisha Woolwine and Hicks Woolwine



Movie Mess-Ups

Interesting Movie Slip- Ups

by Daniel

Smith

I researched some scenes in movies that were accidental mistakes; these errors were never fixed or edited and are hard to find but very funny to see.

In *Star Wars Episode IV*:

When Luke Skywalker emerges from his ship after destroying the Death Star, he calls Princess Leia "Carrie," which is the name of the actress playing Leia.

In *The Fellowship of The Ring*:

When Frodo and Sam are leaving the Shire to destroy the ring, if looked at carefully, a car can be seen passing by. Also, when Bilbo leaves the house, he leaves the door open. When Gandalf picks up the ring, he has to re-open the door. When Sam says that if he goes to the

cornfield, it will be the farthest he has ever been and he has to take one more step yet he is at least seven steps away! The apple that Aragorn throws to Pippin in the non-American version has a nutrition sticker on it.

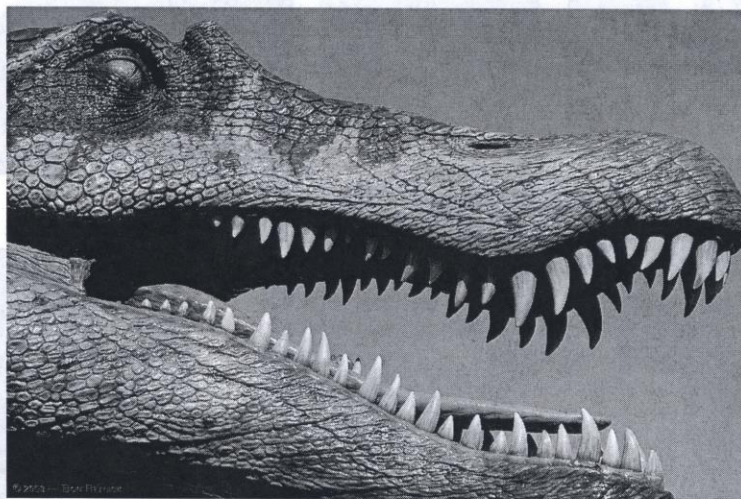
In *Jurassic Park*:

The T-Rex is claimed to be sensitive to motion and only attacks at the sight of

movement, but when he sees the lawyer on the toilet, the lawyer becomes lunch anyway although he is motionless.

From *The Lost World*:

The T-Rex can make a glass of water or a puddle ripple though the T-Rex cannot make a whole swimming pool ripple. Also, the T-Rex magically kills



all the people on the boat, yet when it hits the mainland, the T-Rex has been in the lower storage area the whole time; plus, the man holding the close button down (who is also dead) has held it down the whole time.

From *Jurassic Park III*:

Before fighting the other dinosaur, the T-Rex had blood on his face. The next minute, the blood is magically gone.

In *Barney's Great Adventure*:

When Barney and his friends are in the marching band, their shadows disappear after a few minutes with no explanation. Not like little kids will actually care if Barney's shadow is gone for a while.

Features

Order of Importance: Latin or Cryptography

by Harrison

Stringfellow

Old A B C D E F

New X Y Z A B C

While Latin usually increases vocabulary, nobody speaks it today, so it is somewhat obsolete.

However cryptography, the art of encoding, could be used to write securely with other people, but Latin also ensures secrecy. Anyway, one form of encoding is a rotation code where the letters of the alphabet are moved over any number of spaces.

The "Old" row (see beginning of article) is the beginning of the alphabet we use to write. The "New" row is the equivalent of the Old alphabet. The word "dog" is written "ald" when encrypted. The "d" in the Old alphabet was matched with the "a" in the New alphabet, the "o" in the Old alphabet was matched with the "l" in the new alphabet, and the "g" in the Old alphabet is matched with "d" in the New alphabet. (The Old and New alphabet continue with the remaining

20 letters in the order of the regular alphabet.) If the sentence "Jane runs" were encoded, it would read "Gxkb orkp." Capital letters do not matter when encoding or decoding. The process of decoding is the same as encoding except the letters are in the New alphabet and are matched with the Old alphabet. Also, the New alphabet can be rotated by any number of slots.

When a decoder attempts to decipher the words, certain steps are useful to figure the rotation key. One is to look for single and double letter words that are common, like the word "a". Also, when writing the encryption key, which is similar to the one earlier, write the Old alphabet, or the alphabet we use to write with, first and then write the new, rotated alphabet.

Hitchhiker's Guide

by Ben Mecklenborg

I went to a movie theater to see *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. I went to see a movie, but what I got was a strange and weird form of torture! The signs were all around me screaming "turn back," but I didn't listen. Some signs included my nonstop spill of popcorn and also there was a bee hive of fifteen-year-old girls and a hornets' nest of fifteen-year-old boys swarming the theater with fire in their eyes. It's sticking a Fat Moe burger in your mouth and trying to eat it in one bite it doesn't look good.

When the movie started, there was a bunch of dolphins that sang a catchy tune. But basically, the plot is very simple. The Earth blows up, and this weird British guy and his alien friend hitch a ride on a spaceship, get captured, and tortured with poetry, but escape with their lives by hitching another ride.

On this ship, the weird British guy's long lost love is found with a goofy ruler of the galaxy guy whose brain is powered by lemon juice and looks like a guy from the Style Channel. They fly around looking for the answer to the meaning of life. Then the girl is captured, and the Style guy

new Earth which is in the same spot as his house on the old Earth and all is good. Oh, and also the answer to the meaning of life is forty-two. Yes, after great minds such as Socrates and Einstein have pondered this question, some big computer thing has calculated forty-two after millions of years. Oh, and the Earth

is run by mice. Yes, after thousands of years of killing mice and keeping them as pets, we have been torturing our superior overlords. Finally, the new Earth is sent into orbit where all is normal again with the same people from the Old Earth in the same place as they were when the Earth blew up, and there are more singing fish.

The plot is kind of out there, but it is jam packed with British humor because every one loves British humor! There are only a few words that truly describe this movie, but my favorite is weird. Go see it if you are bored, want to have a good story to tell at a Christmas or Channukah party, a couple of laughs, and a guy powered by lemon j.



gets his second head taken off. They go to the planet that makes other planets. Then they live on the new Earth that is being created by some old guy on a monorail on the planet that makes other planets. Didn't I say the plot was simple? Anyway, they find the British guy's house on the

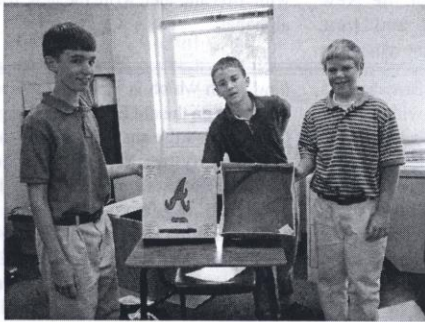
Mythology Projects



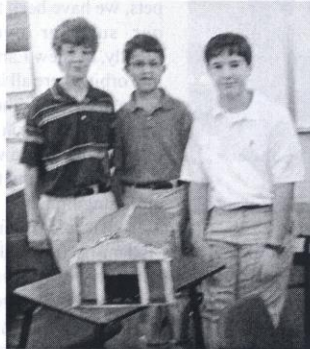
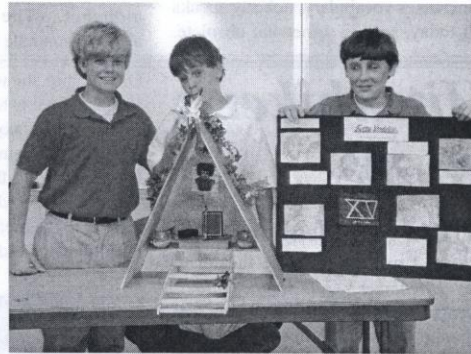
Campbell Hynes, Daniel Todd, and Will Henry

Assignment:
To create a god
that would be
accepted on
Mount Olympus

*Electar Afrodiates: Created by
Harry West, Ben Sutter, and Nate
Smith.*



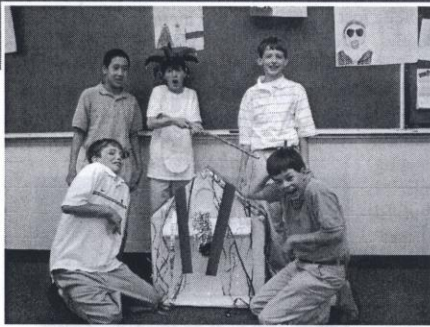
Kyle Brantley, Matt Bellet, and Nathan Dewitt



*Ben Weakly, Wilson Griffith, and
Patrick Sweeney*

**Congratulations to the 2005-2006
Honor Council Representatives:**
8th Grade: Jordan Herring
9th Grade: Brain Swenson and
Brandon Dockery

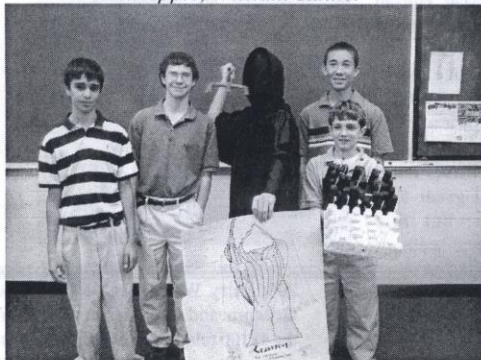
Mythology Projects



Prankisus, the Ultimate Prankster:
Robinson Hunt, Alvin Kim, Charles Herron,
Alex Apple, William Tanner



*Valitum, by Tommy Harless, Andrew Phillips,
Kevin Carr, and Richard Wall*



*Hershel Mehta, Daniel Smith, Matthew
Moynihan, Steven Gaittens, Seth Akers-Campbell*



*Michael Seitz, Mitchell Lukins, John Donlon,
Hayden Wieck, Mac Hudson*



*Mikey Reid, Alex Fetrol, Shep
Patterson*



*Velocitus, by Alex Snow, Pat Killinan, Luke
Colbert, Matt Bracy, George Curtis*

Sports

Microbe Tennis

by Chris Anderson

The microbe tennis team's season ended with a 5-2 regular season record, with wins over Grassland, Brentwood Academy, USN, CPA, and DCA. A second place finish at HVAC was icing on the cake for this great season. Every starter on the team made it past the first round. Unfortunately, Chris "Lefty" Vaughn and Jacob "COME ON!!" Hymes lost a close

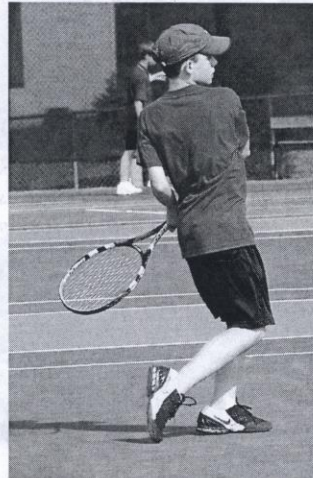


Chris Anderson

match in the second round at #1 Doubles. Michael "Stilts" Seitz lost a close match as well at #3 Singles. After making it to the finals, the #2 doubles team of Andy "Bus" Stack and Chris "All Talk No Walk" Anderson lost yet another close match and claimed 2nd. Richard "Roger" Brunsting took second as well. Roger "I Can Beat You All with My Left Hand" Briggs took first at #1 singles, giving him the title of best tennis player in the conference. Although Jonas "Jo Jo or J-Man" Hill did not compete in the tournament, he made a huge impact on the team with his great spirit and his diligent work ethic. The entire team played great this season, but this stellar season

would not have been possible without our incredible coach, Sean "Big Daddy" Kinch. Congratulations to the 2005 Microbe Tennis team for another great season.

Jake Hymes



HVAC CHAMPS!

by Coach Greg Ferrell

The Junior School Track Team won the HVAC Track and Field Championship. It was truly a team victory with scoring coming in every event. Medal winners were as follows: Joseph Sloan took 2nd in the shot put and 3rd in the discus; Scott Bubis was 2nd in the discus; Leland Howe finished

2nd in the pole vault and 1st in the hurdles; Baker Mulherin tripled by taking 1st in the pole vault, 1st in the mile, and 1st in the 800; Patrick Crum was 1st in the high jump, 1st in the long jump, 3rd in the 100, 1st in the 400, and 1st in the

200; Perry Webb, Reggie Ford, Tee Griscom, and Alex Martin were 2nd in the 4x100 relay; Alex Martin was 3rd in the hurdles; and Rob Higham was 2nd in the mile. Congratulations to the entire team and the coaches who

worked so hard to have such a great season!



Alex Apple



We are the Champions!

Sports

B-Team Baseball:

What a Season!

by Coach Jeff Goline

The Junior School Baseball B-team compiled an impressive 7-1 record this year by a combined score of 76-18. The team was led by strong defense and a deep pitching staff. Centerfielder Jackson Roberts covered a lot of ground in the outfield while Neil Reinhardt was very consistent at shortstop to lead the Big Red defense, which turned eight double plays. Eight of the team's twelve players contributed from the pitcher's mound. Oliver Oldacre, as the team's only lefty, fooled hitters with his unorthodox delivery. Harry West and Neil Reinhardt also aided the staff with their excellent control. Offensively, Scott Bubis hit the team's sole homerun, a drive to deep left-center field. Finally, the squad's three eighth graders — Bubis, Spencer Wise, and Will Andrews — provided the team with valuable leadership. In the most dramatic game of the season, MBA

overcame a 7-6 deficit at Grassland by scoring six runs in the last inning to win the game. The biggest single play of the year was at Croft, when the team completed a triple play. The future of Big Red Baseball is bright as this talented group makes its way to the high school.

Matt Ractliffe



down season this year, finishing the regular season 4-6. However, they were 4-2 in the HVAC (the games that really count) and earned the 3rd seed for the tournament. The team came together to play its best baseball in the



B Teamers support the A Team

HVAC tournament, defeating USN in the first round 8-1, and the higher ranked, #2 seed, Page Middle, in the best game of the season, 5-4. Tom Corcoran had the "big blast" of the game, a two-run homer over the left-field fence that turned out to be the winning run. B-Team acquisition Neil Reinhardt saved the game, entering in the bottom of the seventh inning with the bases loaded, no outs, and the score 5-3. He retired the batters in order, allowing only one run. Unfortunately, the Big Red fell short in the championship game against CPA, 8-5.

This year's team was very balanced at the plate with a batting lineup that rotated and was solid from the lead-off spot to the #9 hitter. Everyone

contributed to the success of the season. Michael Nunan was the offensive leader with seven doubles, two

Continued on Pg. 20

A-Team Baseball: HVAC Runners- Up by Coach John Frost

The Microbe Baseball A-Team had an up and



Spencer Wise



Zach Brickner

Chess Tournament

Junior School Chess Tournament

by Chunbum Park

Top seven players:

1. Connor Shope
2. Chunbum Park
3. Fadi Pulous
4. Karl Mecklenborg
5. Spencer Wise
6. Harrison Stringfellow
7. Clayton Cothran

This year's chess tournament was very intense, and each player was quite talented. I was disappointed that a few players who are really good at chess did not participate, but then, I would have a better chance in the final ranking. Here are the rules by which we played: 1. If there is a stalemate, the player with more points wins. 2. If the

time runs out, except for the championship match, the player with more points wins. 3. If time runs out and both players have the same amount of points, the player with better positions wins. 4. If time runs out, and both players have only one piece each, the king, then the game is a draw. 5. In a championship match, in order to get the most accurate result, running out of

time, stalemate, etc. result in a rematch, unless one player forfeits. The prize of the chess tournament was a Korean bookmark with the design of a Korean traditional square kite.

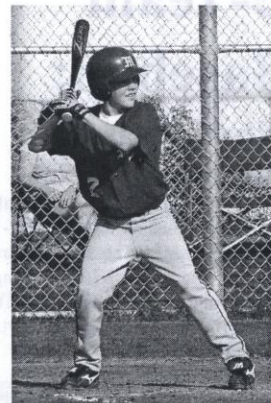
Let me describe the last game that I had with Connor. The game seemed to be in my grip, but a few fatal mistakes turned the table. Connor knew that I was memorizing strategies and moves from Chessmaster, said to be the world's greatest chess program. I could see him shaking, and I knew from the way he moved about his pieces that he couldn't think clearly. That gave me some advantageous moves, and, soon, I was controlling the center. However, I became too confident and didn't see Connor's conspiracy, and I fell for it. As a result, I lost two pawns that were controlling the center. Connor advanced his pawns, and since he had better position, he began to trade-off pieces. At the end, we each had three



Great Minds: Connor and Chunbum

pawns and a king. Because Connor's pawns were closer to the end of the board than mine, he could get his queen. Can anybody tell me how to beat Connor? I wish that another chess tournament would be held next year, and more people participate in it. Chess is, I think, the greatest of all board games.

Continued from Pg. 19



Davis Hunt

triples, one homerun, and fifteen RBIs. Tom Corcoran, Matt Ractliffe, Sam Embry, and Hooper Paty also had notable offensive numbers. Defensively, the team was equally balanced and diverse; eleven of twelve players took the pitcher's mound at some point in the season and made a positive impact. Chris Vincent had a strong season on the mound, keeping the opposing hitters off-balance with his knuckle-ball and off-speed pitches. He was our most durable pitcher, pitching 4 - 5 innings per game while allowing only 1 - 2 earned runs per outing. Wade Nelson also added a six-inning shutout performance against USN in the tournament, and Hooper Paty held the tournament champion CPA to two runs through 5 1/3 innings in the final game. Hooper was also a defensive standout at catcher, throwing out 50 - 75% of the runners who attempted to steal, and Whit Woodring and Davis Hunt anchored the infield.

The Back Page



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